

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 10, 12 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation application(s) directed to any of the canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

Turning now to the Office Action, claim 10 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of claim 10. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution in the present application and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's objection, claim 10 has hereby been canceled. Accordingly, the objection is moot and withdrawal of such is this respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as purportedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution in the present application and not to acquiesce to any of the Examiner's rejections, claims 12 and 15 have been canceled by the present amendment. The Examiner's rejection is therefore rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has further rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as supposedly claiming the same invention as that of claim 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,680. This rejection is also respectfully traversed. As mentioned above, to expedite prosecution in the present application and not to acquiesce to any of the Examiner's rejections, claim 12 has been canceled by the present amendment. This rejection is therefore rendered moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

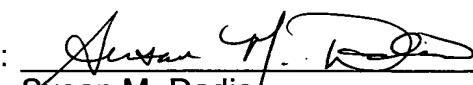
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment and Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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